

Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 NSC-05

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O R 171230Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7997
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
EUCOM
CINCUSAFE
USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE
USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, CY, GR
SUBJ: NEWSPAPER SYAS JUSMMAT TOLD TO CLOSE

1. SENSATIONALIST HURRIYET, TURKEY'S LARGEST DAILY NEWSPAPER, MONDAY (FEB 17) REPORTED THAT JUSMMAT HAD BEEN TOLD TO GO. UNDER THE FRONT PAGE BANNER HEADLINE; "WE GAVE OUR ANSWER TO THE AMERICAN MILITARY AIR ORGANIZATION--WE SAID 'GO' TO JUSMMAT", THE STORY SAID THAT AMBASSADOR MACOMBER HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT, IN LIGHT OF THE CUT-OFF OF U.S. MILITARY AID, JUSMMAT NO LONGER HAD ANY BUSINESS IN TURKEY.

2. THE STORY ASSERTED THAT AFTER RECEIVING A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AMBASSADOR MACOMBER WENT TO JUSMMAT HEADQUARTERS TO CONFER WITH MAJOR GENERAL GALLOWAY AND OTHER HIGH
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RANKING AMERICAN OFFICER. HURRIYET REPORTED THAT IN ITS COMMUNICATIO

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TO THE AMBASSADOR, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SAID: "AS A NATURAL CONSEQUENCE OF THE TERMINATION OF AMERICAN AID, THE LEGAL POSITION IN TURKEY OF JUSMMAT, THE ORGANIZATION FOR MILITARY AID TO TURKEY, HAS ENDED." THE STORY ALSO ALLEGED THAT AT THE REPORTED MEETING BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND AMERICAN OFFICERS, IT WAS DECIDED TO DELAY AS LONG AS POSSIBLE ACTION ON REMOVING JUSMMAT IN THE HOPE THAT AID TO TURKEY WOULD BE RESTORED FEB 28. THE STORY ALSO SAID THAT THE CLOSING OF AMERICAN PX AND APO FACILITIES WAS DESIRED.

3. IN A PARAGRAPH WHICH SEEMD IN PART TO CONTRADICT THE BODY OF THE STORY, HURRIYET REPORTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAD INFORMED THE TURKISH GOVT OF WHAT MEASURES MIGHT BE TAKEN IN LIGHT OF THE AID CUT-OFF, BUT THAT WHAT ACTION IN FACT WOULD BE TAKEN REMAINED UP TO THE GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE.

4. THE STORY WAS WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION AND THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED MEETING OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS WAS NO SPECIFIED.

5. COMMENT: HURRIYET HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN FOR SENSATIONALIST TREATMENT

OF HIGHLY DISTORTED REPORTS. THIS STORY, HOWEVER, HAS EVOKED A NUMBER OF QUERIES TO THE EMBASSY BY RESPONSIBLE NEWSMEN. WE HAVE DENIED IT ON BACKGROUND. AMBASSADOR DID IN FACT VISIT JUSMMAT FEBRUARY 14 TO GIVE BRIEFINGS ON CURRENT SITUATION. THIS MAY HAVE FORMED FACTUAL BASIS, SUCH AS IT IS, FOR HURRIYET STORY.
MACOMBER

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